together, Sir Robert began to broach the matter of the Attorney-
General, saying, * My lord, the Queen has resolved e'er five days
pass without any further delay to make an Attorney-General
I pray your lordship to let me know whom you will favour '

The Earl answered that he wondered Sir Robert should ask
him that question seeing that it could not be unknown to him
that he favoured Francis Bacon

' Good lord,' replied Sir Robert, [c] I wonder your Lordship
should go about to spend your strength m so unlikely or impos-
sible a manner'

After further talk passed between them, Sir Robert said, ' If
at least your Lordship had spoken of the Solicitorship, that might
be of easier digestion to her Majesty *

Upon this the Earl answereth, ' Digest me no digestions , for
the Attorneyship for Francis is that I must have, and in that will
I spend all my power, might, authority and annuity, and with
tooth and nail defend and procure the same for him against
whosoever , and that whosoever getteth this office out of my
hand for another, before he have it, it shall cost him the coming
by, and of this be you assured of, Sir Robert, for now do I fully
declare myself And for your own part, Sir Robert, I think it
strange both of my Lord Treasurer and you that can have the
mind to seek the preference of a stranger before so near a kins-
man For if you weigh in a balance the parts every way of his
competitor and him, only excepting five poor years of admitting
to a house of court before Francis, you shall find in all other
respects whatsoever, no comparison between them *

THE CONFESSION OF PATRICK COLLEN

Patrick Collen now declareth that Jacques had persuaded him
to kill Antonio Perez, formerly the King of Spain's

Secretary,
which he undertook, whereupon Jacques gave
him £30 in gold,
for his voyage He then departed immediately
from Brussels
for St Omar, where he found an old priest to
whom he con-
fessed The priest dissuaded him, saying that it
was unlawful
to commit murder , but next day Jacques took
him to Father
Holt who said that he might lawfully enterprise
anything for the
King's service, and, advising him to prepare himself
to God, gave
him absolution